



## Frances P. "Franci" Deal

November 7, 2021

Frances "Franci" Pauline Deal

Of Monroeville, 74, passed on Sunday, November 7, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents, Janet (Vogel) & Melvin Deal and her loving & loyal companion English Cocker Spaniel, Tierney. She is survived by her brother, James Deal (Shari); nephew Bryan Deal (Patricia); niece, Lisa Deal (Marvin); great-nephews, Michael, and James Deal; her beloved dog Meana, and Teddy her puppy nephew.

Franci graduated from Wilkinsburg High School class of '65 and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree from Lycoming College. She retired from a long career in medical technology at Forbes Regional Hospital where she was the Assistant Lab Manager at the blood bank. She was an active member of Monroeville United Methodist Church serving on the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Franci loved to sew, a passion instilled in her by her mother Janet. She was a very talented quilter, she also made purses, bags and clothing for herself, friends & family. She continued to sew with the Sewing Guild, and she was known as the glue of stitch camp. She was an avid reader and belonged to multiple book clubs and a bible study group. Franci loved flowers and plants, as she was starting her own 'green house' for the winter months. Franci defied the odds as a polio survivor with her rich and independent life that included travels throughout the country and in her younger years, she was a passionate bridge player - even once playing against Omar Sharif in Hawaii!

She was so full of life and love, and very grateful for every day God granted her. Her positive attitude, fabulous sense of humor and loving nature will continue to be an inspiration to those who knew her. She will be dearly missed by her family and many, many friends. In lieu of flowers: please send donations to an animal organization of your choice and/or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in loving memory and honor of Franci. Friends and family are welcomed at the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE, 4335 Northern Pike, on Thursday, November 11th from 2-4 & 6-8 pm. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 12, 2021 at Monroeville United Methodist Church, 219 Center Rd. Monroeville, at 10am. Everyone please meet at the church. To leave online condolences, please visit [www.corlfuneralchapel.com](http://www.corlfuneralchapel.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Visitation

NOV 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Service

NOV 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Monroeville United Methodist Church  
219 Center Road  
Monroeville,, PA 15146

# Tribute Wall

“ There’s a photo that comes to mind when I think of my early childhood – a birthday party, maybe my fourth? – I’m blowing out candles and around me are the many marvelous forces that informed my upbringing: my mother Hannah and sister Katie, my granny Jane and of course Franci. And so it is with my memory of childhood as a whole: I can’t think of a time that Franci was not a part of our lives. Every birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Every gathering – whether to celebrate or to mourn, or even just to enjoy a regular Sunday afternoon – Franci is a part of that memory. She always was more a member of our family than just a friend.

*In fact, thinking about her friendship with my mother over the past week, I realized that it is from their beautiful relationship that I learned the meaning of friendship, of how to care for and treat another person with love, even someone who is in your life almost by accident. It’s from Franci that I learned what a soul-enriching presence a friend can be. I also learned from Franci what a marvel it is to see someone apply virtuosic skill to a craft—I’m in awe of people who can make things with their hands, and Franci’s work was nothing short of stunning. She made a beautiful quilt for me some years back which I will cherish for the rest of my life. What a special gift to put so much focused work into something for another person.*

*And of course, I learned from Franci’s indefatigable spirit what it means to be independent, and what it means to have grace despite adversity – if there’s one quality I hope to emulate in myself, it is Franci’s astonishing grace before God.*

*I feel so very lucky to have had Franci in my life to teach me these things. I feel lucky that I got to have so many theater outings with her in my youth (a regular fixture that informed the whole trajectory of my life). I feel lucky that I got to see her and cook dinner for her just a few weeks ago. I’ll miss Franci deeply, but somehow, I think she’ll still always be with us every time we gather, no matter the occasion.*

*With love to Jim and Lisa and all of her friends and family,  
Mikey*



---

**Mikey Bulger** - November 12, 2021 at 12:31 PM



*Beautifully said!*

---

**Mary Lou Kissane** - December 03, 2021 at 06:06 PM

AE

“ *I was lucky enough almost 17 years ago that she answered the call/email to want to teach me how to sew. Since then every Wednesday evening was our class time. I am so thankful to have known her and been a part of her life for all of these years. It is true one phone call can change your life.*

*May she rest in peace free of any ailments and pain.*

*Gone but never forgotten.*

*Love.*

*Andrea*

---

**Andrea Eicher** - November 12, 2021 at 07:08 AM

MS

“ *What a wonderful and talented lady who will be greatly missed. I knew her from ASG for many years. Rest in peace with our Heavenly Father.*

*Please accept my sincere sympathy.*

*Mary Ann Schwan*

---

**MaryAnn Schwan** - November 11, 2021 at 10:20 AM



MS

“ *What a wonderful and talented lady who will be greatly missed. I knew her from ASG for many years. Please accept my sincere sympathy.*

---

**Mary Ann Schwan** - November 11, 2021 at 09:59 AM



ML

“ *Franci and I were roommates at Lycoming College. We stayed in touch somewhat, but in 2009 we started visiting again on a regular basis. I'd spend long weekends sewing with her, shopping and learning new projects, eating and laughing. We loved her dogs and I walked and played with them as much as she did. I always came home more inspired and optimistic than when I had left. She was so much fun to be with. She was a great example of blooming where she was planted. I am so grateful for the many times we had together. She made my life richer , I am blessed. I know her gentle soul is with us even now.*

---

**Mary Lane** - November 10, 2021 at 02:39 PM

SC

“ So very sorry to hear of Franci’s passing. She and my mom (Cheryll Spirer) were great sewing friends and when I was in high school, she helped me make this beautiful pillow for my grandmother. She was incredibly patient with me (in contrast to my mom) and the 3 of us had a great time for hours as she taught me to embroider. I thought of Franci every time I saw this pillow at my grandmother’s. It was always fun with Pap, Mrs. Deal, Franci & the pups. Thinking of all of you and praying for peace and comfort.



---

**Stephanie Crandall** - November 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

MS

“ As a child, Franci was the next-door neighbor to my Aunt Mary Gibbons on Mifflin Avenue in Wilkinsburg. I remeber what a cheerful and pleasant person she was and found it very gratifying to learn that she remained that way through what appears to have been a fulfilling life. It is obvious she will be missed by her friends and family.  
May she rest in peace.  
Mary Hope (Kirk) Straub

---

**Mary Hope Straub** - November 10, 2021 at 10:55 AM

JT

“ Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Franci’s family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Franci was a great person who was always giving and thoughtful; she will be truly missed.  
Jeff and Deb Thompson

---

**Jeff and Deb Thompson** - November 10, 2021 at 06:30 AM

GC

“ Met Franci through another wonderful, mutual friend, Marie Boal. They both Loved to Sew and I was happy as a Lark! Over the years, friendship grew, Franci and I realized that our Moms had their Birthdate in common. Every January 19th, we called each other to wish a Happy Birthday to our Moms in Heaven! For all of the years I've known Franci. I have NEVER ONCE heard her complain about anything and she NEVER had a bad word to speak of anyone! She has always been a special example of the type of person we should all be! Many Beautiful Memories --- Our last get together was for Dottie's Birthday party and I rode to it with Franci! You will never be forgotten, my dear friend!

Gert Camp

---

**Gertrude Camp** - November 09, 2021 at 04:40 PM

DC

“ Franci was the first friend I had when I moved here 21 years ago. At that time I was working for Union Orthotics. Franci was one of our customers. The first time I met her we instantly bonded. She introduced me to the sewing guild. I have so many memories of the past 21 years. I will forever remember her. The last memory of her was when she attended my surprise birthday party. Gone but not forgotten.....Dottie Cole

---

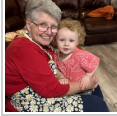
**Dottie Cole** - November 09, 2021 at 11:46 AM

JT

My heart goes out to Franci's family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Franci was so special, always giving and thoughtful.  
Jeff & Deb Thompson

---

**Jeff and Deb Thompson** - November 09, 2021 at 05:50 PM



*She will be greatly missed. Every where Franci went she carried that beautiful smile and a positive attitude. I don't think there's a sewist or quilter in Western Pa who doesn't consider Franci a friend armed with needle and thread.*

---

**Bonnie Readie** - November 10, 2021 at 11:07 AM

RF

*Franci was a very special person, great personalty and always ready for fun. I enjoyed playing bridge with her and sewing week end at sewing camp. Franci will be missed by so many. God rest her soul. Rusty (Margaret) Frankoski*

---

**Rusty Margaret Frankoski** - November 10, 2021 at 04:25 PM

BH

*I was glad to get to know Franci through church groups. While I remember her coming to church with her dad many years ago after her mom passed, I got to know her a bit more through classes and other groups at church. I will remember her positive attitude, thoughtful responses to difficult questions, and the gentleness she exuded.*

---

**Betty Henderson** - November 11, 2021 at 12:55 PM

AM

*I met Franci at the inception of the Pittsburgh Sewing Guild. We were the only 2 people who went to the very first stitchcamp. 24 hours of sewing, no food to speak of. About 9am, the mother superior floated into a room full of bleary eyes and in a loud voice said, HAVE ALL YOU LADIES BEEN READING YOUR DIRECTIONS BEFORE YOU SEW? Absolute silence. Lol*

*When we started having them in Monroeville, my 3 yo son would come, helping to carry things in, and crawling on the floor to plug things in. Franci engaged him in Pogs, one of which she still had in her stitch camp kit.*

*Later, stitchcampers had a surprise shower for my 2nd child at stitchcamp. My daughter still keeps her fanci by franci on her bed.*

*When I couldn't afford to go to camp, franci would check in periodically. She just made you feel so loved.*

*We can all only hope to to make the world around each of us as bright, beautiful and loving as our Franci did. Run, Franci, run...but not with your scissors!*

---

**Anita McElwee** - November 11, 2021 at 12:57 PM